

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 PM-03 ADP-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 INR-10 /034 W

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R 151006Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2873

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 4728

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TS

SUBJ: SIXTH FLEET INSPECTION VISIT AT BIZERTE

REF: TUNIS 3148

1. USDAO TUNIS HAS RECEIVED MESSAGES (NOT REPEATED TO DEPT) FROM CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON AND USDAO VALLETTA PROPOSING VISIT BY SELECTED COMSIXTHFLT STAFF MEMBERS TO STUDY FEASIBILITY/DESIRABILITY GREATER UTILIZATION BIZERTE PORT FACILITIES BY SIXTH FLEET FOR REPAIR AND RESUPPLY PURPOSES. VISIT WOULD BE LOW PROFILE AND WOULD INVOLVE CONTACTS WITH TUNISIAN NAVAL AUTHORITIES AT WORKING LEVEL. LONDON MESSAGE NOTES THAT CURRENT U.S. NAVY INTEREST IN BIZERTE COMES FROM JCS THROUGH CNO AND IS GENERATED BY TUNIS 3148 REPORTING PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S ENCOURAGEMENT (MENTIONED BRIEFLY DURING LUNCHEON FOR FORMER AMBASSADOR RUSSELL) OF USE BY SIXTH FLEET OF THESE PORT FACILITIES.

2. EMBASSY SHARES DEPT'S VIEW, AS REFLECTED IN RECENT INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS, THAT GOT AND PARTICULARLY BOURGUIBA SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ENCOURAGED TO EXPECT INCREASED SIXTH FLEET ACTIVITIES IN TUNISIA APART FROM SCHEDULED SHIP VISITS. WE HAVE DELIBERATELY AVOIDED FOLLOWING UP TO FIND OUT WHAT BOURGUIBA MAY HAVE SPECIFI-  
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CALLY IN MIND, AS THIS MIGHT STIMULATE MORE FORMAL GOT

DEMARCHE. FOR ITS PART, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT AN INFORMAL VISIT BY SIXTH FLEET STAFF MEMBERS AT THIS TIME WOULD ADD MUCH TO OUR EXISTING KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIZERTE PORT, INCLUDING NAVAL FACILITIES. MOREOVER, WE WOULD BE CONCERNED THAT SUCH A VISIT MIGHT WHET THE APPETITIES OF THE GOT AND PROMPT IT TO MAKE FURTHER DEMANDS OF USG FOR NAVAL ASSISTANCE WHICH MIGHT BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET. THUS, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE BEST TO TURN DOWN THIS NAVY REQUEST.

3. BEFORE REPLYING TO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON AND USDAO VALLETTA, HOWEVER, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT CONCURRENCE IN EMBASSY POSITION.

SEELYE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY VISITS, PORT FACILITIES, NAVAL SHIPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973TUNIS04728  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS SEELYE  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** TUNIS 3148  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SIXTH FLEET INSPECTION VISIT AT BIZERTE  
**TAGS:** MARR, TS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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